

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of September 24, 2003 and Advisory Action dated February 17, 2004 have been received and contents carefully reviewed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matters in claims 11, 12, 14-18, 30 and 31, which have been presented in the Applicants' Amendment of December 19, 2003.

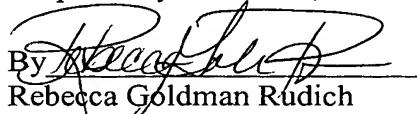
By this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1, 2, 4-10, 19-21 and 23-29 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims (claims 11, 12, 14-18, 30 and 31) are in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: March 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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